

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

343 SCOTT STREET

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**OUR SAVIOUR'S**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FAITH FAMILY FRIENDSHIP

*The Messenger*

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# ***Welcome to The Messenger***

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***Page 2 From the Pastor's Desk***

***Page 3 Committee News***

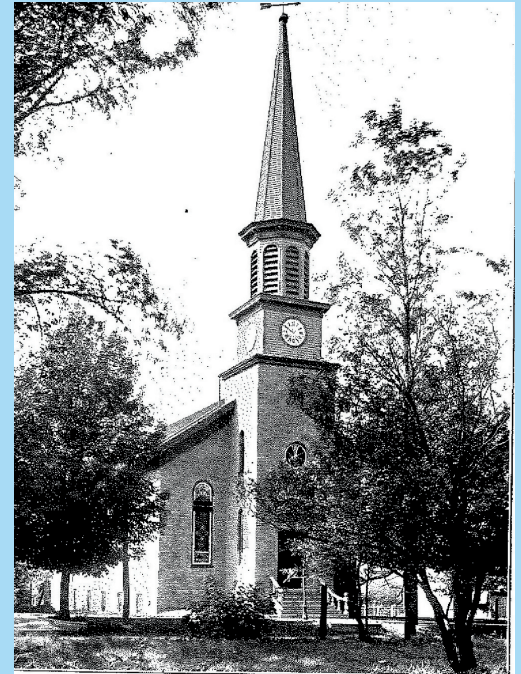
***Page 4 Mission Committee News***

***Page 5 Other News in OSUCC***

***Page 6 2024 Parish Nurse Update***

***Page 7 February Duties Schedule***

***Page 8 February Calendar***



***Join us for Worship In-Person, Virtually, or by Radio!***

Worship Services are Thursday's at 6:30pm or Sunday's at 9:00am

Both Worship Services are streamed to Facebook, YouTube, and are also available on our website.

You can also tune In at 11:00am on Sunday's to 1600AM WRPN for the Radio Broadcast.

## **DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH 2024 MESSENGER:**

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **February 17th.**

Email these to the Church office at [osuccrippon1@gmail.com](mailto:osuccrippon1@gmail.com), or you may drop your information in the office, or submit it taking a photo of the the QR code at the right and filling out the short form which is automatically sent directly to the office email. Thank you.

**QR Code**



# From the Pastor's Desk

After Christmas, Kelly and I were able to get away for a short trip. We drove down to Kansas City for some away time. The funny part of the drive is that as we left Wisconsin, which basically had no snow, and drove into Iowa there was enough snow to snowmobile throughout the state. Yet when we got to Kansas the snow was gone again, leaving us with nice warmer than normal weather. We were able to visit some nice museums, check out the local zoo, eat some amazing food including award winning barbeque, and spend time with a cousin and his wife whom we hadn't seen in a long time. The drive there and back allowed for some good quiet reflection time on the past year and the holiday season.



**Rev. Kevin Mundell**

For me, two of the best things that happened last year was the formation and singing of Voices ala Carte in worship. Their playful, joyous energy brought a delightful energy to our worship services in a spirit lifting way. The second was having the senior choir sing three pieces for our late Christmas Eve service. I loved listening to the liturgist read one of the Christmas readings and then hearing the Senior Choir sing a song reflecting the essence of the Christmas story, which added to the reading and took me to a joyous meditative place. Then we'd go on to the next reading and the next song--three times in a row. I could have just sat there and listened to them sing a Christmas concert if they had one ready. The Senior Choir's singing reminded me of the year when the church I grew up in decided to do a Christmas Cantata at Christmas and my dad and sister both sang in it; they told a version of the Christmas story all with music, and a little bit of acting, and it was one of fondest memories of a Christmas service I have from childhood.

As we were driving to and from Kansas City, we passed a place called the Cowboy Church. It was a newer barn with a big cross on the side out in the middle of the country. Kelly took out her phone and looked it up and it is a church that worships on Tuesday nights. The worship band plays country western and gospel music with local musicians and people of every age come from all over to be a part of the church and participate in the worship service. They had a picture of the worship team, and they were all in their blue jeans, cowboy/girl boots and cowboy/girl hats. The pictures looked like the services were a lot of fun, and they had worship and bible studies after the service for every age. Our home church in St. Paul used to do a community meal for \$2 on Wednesday night, followed by Sunday School for all ages, then choir practice and committee meetings. So everyone came on a Wednesday, ate, and got all their church stuff done for the week except for Sunday worship.

We are in the season of Epiphany celebrating the revelation that Christ is the Savior of the whole world. We are learning about his life and ministry and who he is for us. Soon, on Valentine's Day, we will move into the next season, with Ash Wednesday starting out our Lenten journey. Our focus becomes preparation through discipline to make ready to celebrate the heart of our faith, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Savior. It is a time to make more room in our lives, both for God, and for how we give and care for one another.

Maybe this Lent we can make part of our journey a reflection on what it means for Jesus to be our Lord? What does that mean for us? Do we think about the big and little decisions we make during the day, week, or month by running it through who Jesus is for us and what he expects of us? Do we look at his teaching with each decision we make? What would that look like? May Jesus walk with us--forgiving us, loving us, and transforming us through the Spirit this Lenten season.

# Committee News

## Altar Guild

The 2024 Sign-up is available on the stand outside of the office. This sign-up is for ALL SPONSORSHIPS! Altar flowers are \$25 and Organ flowers are \$16 each. Radio Broadcasts are \$50 per sponsor & \$25 per sponsor per bulletin. Checks for Altar and Organ flowers should be made out to OSUCC ALTAR GUILD. All other checks can be made out to OSUCC.

We welcome anyone new that would like to come and join our Altar Guild group. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Retzlaff or Iona Altnau.



*Catch us at our next meeting on February 11th, 10:00 am in the Conference Room.*

## Christian Education Committee



**Nursery:** We're happy your little ones are here at church! We have a child/parent space available in the South West Corner of the Sanctuary and for your convenience there are Koala Kare changing stations in all of our Ladies restrooms.

**Christian Ed Classes:** Sunday School meets at 10:15 AM after Worship Service.

**Confirmation Class:** We have a class underway. Contact Rev. Mundell if you would like to join the class.

**Adult Ed:** Meets at 10:30 AM after Worship Service.

## Evangelism Committee

**2024 Coffee Hour:** We have had such a wonderful time seeing all the committees and individuals who have held a coffee hour so far this year. Thank you for your support! Have you signed up for a Sunday in 2024? The Sign-Up Sheet is available in the East Narthex!



**Upper Room:** The current issue is available in the East Narthex, the North Narthex, and in front of the church office. There is no charge for this wonderful publication so please do take advantage of using it.

**Calendar:** Please call or email the Church Office about any added events and meetings, or if changes are needed to an existing event.

## Stewardship Committee



Have loose coins? Have your heard about the Stewardship Loose Coin program?

If you would like to donate to that, please make sure the coin is in an envelope marked for that purpose. Many thanks!



## Called to Care Committee

**Mind, Body, & Soul Clinic:** Clinic will be on hold beginning in January 2024. The Called to Care team meetings will continue as scheduled with Rev. Mundell attending.

Additional Called to Care Committee members are always welcome to join us to help care for our congregation. If interested please talk to Rev. Mundell, Iona Altnau, Julie Stellmacher, Dianne Heyn, Caroline Retzlaff, Pat Gittens, or Kathy Lang.



## Missions Committee News

### Totals for 2023...

**5,058 Pill Bottles**

Thank you so much! We have far exceeded last year's total! Bravo to all who gave.

It looks like we're starting 2024 strong, but please continue dropping pill bottles (with prescription labels removed) off in the church office. If the office is closed, feel free to leave them in the brown plastic basket located beneath the table in the North Entrance (vestibule). Thank you, everyone!



**54,062 Pop Tabs**

We are so very thankful to those who have already donated their tabs, or are still working on their collection jar at home. In December you donated 7,075 tabs bring us to the outstanding total of 54,062 for the year! Wow! Amazing! Now we start again for 2024, so ensure all your friends have begun collecting and let's see what this new year brings in. Thank you so very much!

## Women's Wild Winter Weekend

It's almost time to start packing, Ladies! This year's dates are February 23rd - 25th, with an option to go early on Thursday, February 22nd. The theme this year is Prayer and Saturday Night is a Pajama Party!

We have heard that registration is closed now. If you had still wanted to go we'd suggest you call Moon Beach at 715-479-8255 to see if there have been any cancellations.



## Upcoming Dates to Remember

February 11th - It's Souper Bowl Sunday at OSUCC! Let's bring our A game for super canned soup donations to benefit our local community food pantry. Who groaned at the wording, we know someone did!

February 20th - Next Missions Committee Meeting

March 10th - One Great Hour of Sharing® Offering Sunday and Daylight Savings Time Begins

\*One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.



### ***The Ripon Free Community Meals***

January 2nd was OSUCC's first free community meal, and it was well attended. We served 75 plates, including take-outs. Attendees enjoyed both the wonderful food and the fellowship shared with them by all from OSUCC who helped with the meal.

Barb Stracy started the meal off with a prayer and a toast, asking all there to raise a small glass of sparkling grape juice and setting a festive tone for the remainder of the evening!

The main dish incorporated saved ingredients repurposed from the OSUCC Turkey Dinner, becoming Nancy Henning's delicious Turkey and Stuffing Casserole! In addition, green beans with German potato salad-style dressing and a bright Cranberry Orange relish rounded out the menu, balancing the taste buds in the best way.

No meal is complete without dessert, and this one was no exception, featuring No-Bake cheesecake with whipped cream plus fruit topping options.

A huge and heartfelt thank-you goes out to all the members of the Church Council who assisted with everything from set up to clean up, smiling all the while. And of course, thanks go to Nancy Henning and Barb Stracy for all their hard work getting this first meal planned and executed-- with great style and great food. The bar is now set!

Our next meal will be served on February 6, 2024 from 5:00 pm till 6:00 pm. Any volunteers who would like to come help are very welcome, and would need to be there at 4:00 pm to help set up. Last month we had everything cleaned up by 7:00 pm and had a great time helping. Please join in the fun!

The schedule for The Sharing Table meals is as follows:

- 1st Tuesday, 5 - 6 pm - Our Saviour's United Church of Christ - Fellowship Hall, elevator accessible
- 2nd Tuesday, 5 - 6 pm - Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall
- 3rd Tuesday, 5 - 6 pm - Immanuel United Methodist Church - Fellowship Hall, elevator accessible
- 4th Tuesday, 5:30 - 6 pm - First Congregational Church of Ripon - Drive Thru on Ransom St. for boxed dinners
- 5th Tuesday, 5:00 - 6:00 pm, St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Parish, Parish Hall, lower level parking lot, handicap accessible.

### ***Prayer Chain Ministry***

IN OUR PRAYERS: Bob Schouten, Kathy Luedke, Tara Koller, Pat Schaub, Edna Schwandt, 21 unspoken, and all others.

Feel free to use our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.



### ***Easter Flowers - More Details Coming***

The Altar Guild will be getting information out about flowers for Easter this year, which is coming up on March 31st. We'll share the information and order form in upcoming bulletins and the March Messenger so do keep an eye out for that. Thank you!





# 2024 Parish Nurse Update

All of us at OSUCC thank Nurse Monica for her service to the church over the time she spent with us. Sadly for us, as she moved through a discernment process she found that God had called her to move in a new direction and so did not renew her contract.

We thank Nurse Monica for all the ways she ministered to our faith community and wish her all the best moving forward.

A search is underway to fill this important position here at OSUCC. Discussions are taking place with a well qualified candidate and we will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

In the meantime, the Called to Care committee will be meeting with Rev. Mundell until we have a new Parish Nurse on staff.

The Mind, Body, & Soul Clinic will remain on hold until our new Parish Nurse is hired and settled in on staff. At that time we'll update everyone as to when the clinic will resume.

The Called to Care team, working along with the Parish Nurse, has been an important ministry here at OSUCC, and will continue to be so. If you have any questions or are ready to be part of the team, please feel free to reach out to any of the Called to Care committee members: Iona Altnau, Dianne Heyn, Pat Gittens, Kathy Lang, Caroline Retzlaff, and Julie Stellmacher.





# February Duties

## Liturgist

February 4 Jamie Prellwitz  
February 11 Heidi Schwanke  
February 18 Rick Stracy  
February 25 Keith Mulder

## Gatekeepers

February 4 Pat Gittens  
February 11 Keith & Becky Mulder  
February 18 Pete & Kathy Schieler  
February 25 Tom & Julie Stellmacher

## Audio Operator

February 4 Phil Manthei  
February 11 Bob Meyer  
February 14 Phil Manthei  
February 18 Kelly Mundell  
February 21 Phil Manthei  
February 25 John Kwiatkoske  
February 28 Phil Manthei

## Communion Servers

February 4 Buck Kwiatkowski &  
Bob Lueck

## Usher/Greeters

February 4 Team 5  
February 11 Team 6  
February 18 Team 1  
February 25 Team 2

## Altar Guild Monthly Committee

Pat Gittens, Debbie Hahn, Judy  
Heitmann, Julie Stellmacher, Tammy  
Widlake

## Van Drivers

February 4 Tom Carr  
February 11 Bob Lueck  
February 18 Ricky Prellwitz  
February 25 Tom Stellmacher

*Call Church Office by 12PM Thursday before the  
following Sunday to reserve a seat!*

## Coffee Hour

After 9:00AM Worship with Coffee  
and Juice - For those who feel  
comfortable, feel free to join us!

## Bulletin Delivery

Mailed out on Wednesday's  
Kay Quinn will deliver to Russell Manor  
Iona Altnau will deliver to Maplecrest Manor



# February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:00 am Worship Service, Communion 8:00 am Pack 3735 Pancake Breakfast 4:00 - 5:00 pm Den Mtg	<b>5</b> 6:15 pm Puppets	<b>6</b> 5:00 pm <b>Sharing Table</b> <b>Community Meal</b> 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Parent Leader mtg	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 Altar Guild 4:00 - 5:00 pm Den Mtg	<b>12</b> 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Pack 3735 mtg	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Deadline for February Messenger</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 am Worship Service <b>10:15 Annual Meeting</b> 4:00 - 5:00 pm Den Mtg	<b>19</b> 4:30 pm Worship Committee 5:30 pm Christian Ed 6:15 pm Puppets 6:30 pm Evangelism	<b>20</b> 5:30 Missions meeting 6:30 pm Pack 3735 mtg	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:30 am Called to Care 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 4:00 - 5:00 pm Den Mtg	<b>26</b> 6:15 pm Puppets	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Dinner and Crossover ceremony	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Worship Service with Communion		